

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-28, all of the claims in the subject U.S. patent application, as filed, as constituted by the verified translation of PCT/DE2003/003993. Please also cancel claims 1-8, 20, 21 and 22 filed under Article 19 on June 17, 2004. Further, please cancel claims 1-8 and 20-28 filed on October 7, 2004. In addition, please cancel claims 1-4 filed on December 21, 2004. Please add new claims 29-55 as follows.

Claims 1-28 (Cancelled)

29. (New) A continuous web mixing device comprising:

at least a first former;

at least a first longitudinal cutter associated with said first former and adapted to cut a first continuous web associated with said first former longitudinally, in a direction of web travel through the web mixing device, into at least first and second cut partial continuous webs;

at least first and second partial web guide paths adapted to simultaneously conduct said first and second partial continuous webs from said first former;

an outlet of said continuous web mixing device adapted to receive said first and second cut partial continuous webs and to unite them into a main continuous web; and

at least a first stapler arranged in one of said at least first and second

partial web guide paths before said outlet, one of said at least first and second cut partial continuous webs passing through said first stapler.

30. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 29 further including a second former and a second former guide path adapted to convey one of a second continuous web and a partial continuous web to said outlet.

31. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 30 wherein said first and second partial continuous webs from said first former are conducted along first and second sides of said second former and are united at said outlet with said continuous web from said second former, said second former continuous web being located between said first and second partial continuous webs from said first former, to form said main continuous web.

32. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 30 further including a second stapler on said second former guide path.

33. (New) A continuous web mixing device comprising:

at least a first former and a second former;
at least one longitudinal cutter associated with said at least first former and adapted to cut a first continuous web associated with said first former longitudinally, in a direction of web travel through the web mixing device, into at least first and second cut partial continuous webs;

at least first and second partial web guide paths associated with said first former;

an outlet of said web mixing device adapted to receive said first and second cut partial continuous webs and to unite them into a main continuous web; and a second continuous web associated with said second former and movable along a second continuous web guide path, said at least first and second cut partial continuous webs associated with said first former being simultaneously conducted on first and second sides of said second former and being united at said outlet with said second continuous web to form said main continuous web.

34. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 33 further including a stapler on one of said first and second partial web guide paths and said second continuous web guide path.

35. (New) A continuous web mixing device comprising:

a first former;

a first longitudinal cutting device associated with said first former and adapted to cut a first continuous web into first and second partial first continuous webs;

at least one first former guide path;

a first stapler associated with said first former guide path;

a second former;

a second longitudinal cutting device associated with said second former, and adapted to cut a second continuous web and first and second partial second

continuous webs;

at least one second former guide path;

a second stapler associated with said second former guide path;

an outlet for said continuous web mixing device; and

at least a first deflection roller intermediate said first and second formers and said outlet, one of said first continuous web and said first and partial second continuous webs associated with one of said first and second formers being conducted through said one of said staplers associated with the other of said first and second formers together with one of said second continuous web and said first and second partial continuous webs associated with the other of said first and second formers.

36. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 35 further including a second deflection roller adapted to conduct at least one of said first and second partial first and second webs and said first and second webs from said first and second formers to said outlet not passing through one of said first and second staplers.

37. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 35 further including a second deflection roller adapted to guide one of said first and second partial continuous first and second webs around said first and second stapler along an outside of said continuous web mixing device.

38. (New) The continuous web mixing device in accordance with claim 29 further including a folding apparatus after, in said direction of web travel, said continuous web

mixing device.

39. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 29 wherein said at least first longitudinal cutter is located upstream of said at least first former.

40. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 29 wherein said at least first and second cut partial continuous webs are brought together by said first former.

41. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 29 wherein said first longitudinal cutter is located at an outlet for said first former.

42. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 29 wherein said main continuous web includes both stapled and not stapled partial one of said continuous webs and said first continuous web.

43. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 29 further including a folding apparatus, said first continuous web and said first and second cut partial continuous webs being connected with each other at said folding apparatus.

44. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 29 further including a folding apparatus located after, in said direction of web travel, said first former.

45. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 29 wherein said one of said first and second cut partial continuous webs passing through said stapler is comprised

of several web layers and is combined in an area adjacent said outlet with another of said first and second partial webs.

46. (New) A method for mixing continuous webs including:

providing at least a first former;

associating at least one longitudinal cutting device with said at least first former;

conveying at least two webs through said former and said associated longitudinal cutting device and forming at least first and second longitudinally cut and formed partial continuous webs;

providing at least first and second guide paths;

providing a stapler in at least one of said first and second guide paths;

moving said first and second partial continuous webs along said first and second guide paths;

stapling at least one of said first and second partial continuous webs;

providing an outlet; and

combining said first and second partial continuous webs into a main continuous web at said outlet, said at least one of said first and second partial continuous webs being stapled before being again united into said main continuous web.

47. (New) The method of claim 46 further including locating a folding apparatus downstream, in a direction of web travel of said stapler, and arranged partial webs conducted over said former with stapled and non-stapled partial continuous webs prior

to entry into said folding apparatus.

48. (New) The method of claim 46 further including locating a folding apparatus downstream, in a direction of web travel, of said stapler and arranging partial webs conducted over said former with two different stapled partial continuous webs prior to entry into said folding apparatus.

49. (New) The method of claim 46 further including providing a second former and guiding said first and second partial continuous webs on first and second sides of said second former.

50. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 49 wherein a number of webs of said continuous web dividable into said partial continuous webs can be varied.

51. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 50 wherein a size of said number of webs passing through said first stapler can be varied in steps of four pages.

52. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 29 further including a second stapler arranged on the other of said at least first and second partial web guide paths.

53. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 29 further including an additional continuous web guide adapted to bypass said at least first stapler.

54. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 29 further including a third partial continuous web.

55. (New) The continuous web mixing device of claim 54 further including a second stapler adapted to receive said third partial continuous web prior to said outlet.